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but the split disappears temporarily before the metaphase, when it is again evident. During late prophase and metaphase the chromosomes often show a distinctly paired arrangement. In telophase there is a massing at each pole, after which the chromosomes separate and become joined by anastomoses. Considerable variation in chromosome number is shown; the usual number is 15. The nuclei occasionally show certain characters of heterotypic mitosis.—L. W. SHARP.

Poison weed.—Larkspurs have always had the reputation of being poisonous, but it seems that only in North America have they been important in causing losses of stock. MARSH and his associates²⁴ have investigated the poisoning due to larkspur in Colorado, and presumably the conditions are the same in other mountain cattle ranges of the West. The larkspurs are grouped as tall and low larkspurs, *Delphinium Barbeyi* representing the first group, and *D. Nelsonii* the latter. These forms cause the loss of a great number of cattle, but horses and sheep are not injured by grazing on larkspur areas; and cattle are not injured if prevented from grazing on such areas until the second week of July. The next problem is to discover the specific poison.—J. M. C.

Xenia.—Having discovered instances of xenia in wheat, BLARINGHEM²⁵ sought to determine whether the vigorous development of hybrid embryo and endosperm ever causes a change in the character of the maternal tissue that surrounds them. On crossing a comparatively small wheat, known as *Triticum turgidum gentile* Al. var. Normandy, with a larger type, *Triticum vulgare lutescens* hybrid no. 126 of the Hohenheim collection, 16 hybrid seeds approaching the paternal variety in size were obtained. This phenomenon is interpreted as xenia in the original sense of the term, though it seems probable that it is simply a stretching of the pericarp due to a large hybrid embryo and endosperm.—E. M. EAST.

Artificial cell structure.—In a series of interesting experiments, W. MAGNUS²⁶ has produced, from paraffin, beeswax, and other substances, various structures which bear a striking resemblance to cells and tissues. The paraffin, with a melting point of about 74° C., was poured upon mercury which had been heated to 78° C. and allowed to cool at room temperature. While this is only the beginning of the investigation, the writer thinks he has already shown that through the action of purely physical forces structures can be produced which look like

²⁴ MARSH, C. DWIGHT, CLAWSON, A. B., and MARSH, HADLEIGH, Larkspur or "poison weed." U.S. Dept. Agric., Bur. Plant Ind., Farmer's Bull. 531. 1913.

²⁵ BLARINGHEM, L., L'influence du pollen visible sur l'organisme maternal; découverte de la xénie chez le blé. Bull. Soc. Bot. France 60:187-193. 1913.

²⁶ MAGNUS, WERNER, Über zellenformige Selbstdifferenzierung aus flüssiger Materie. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells. 31:290-303. pl. 13. 1913.